



Participation



From The Director's Desk

I would like to thank the thousands of Canadians who have made 1985 a truly eventful year for the National Park system. In addition to your involvement during the celebration of our Centennial Year, you have continued to contribute to the National Parks through your support and constructive input to the many planning programs in the Western Region.

I am sure that we can count on receiving your valued assistance as these on-going programs once again require your consideration.

Steve Kun
Director
Western Region

Mount Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks Planning Program

The *Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks Planning Program* continues to progress towards its completion date in December 1986. Since the initiation of the program in 1983, the public has received and responded to the parks' purpose and objectives statements and a detailed package of background information on the natural and cultural resources, recreational opportunities, interpretation and information services, operational methods and the parks' relationship to the surrounding region.

Based on such factors as public response, visitor use, legislation, policy and the role of the parks in the national system, Parks Canada's planning team has examined possible management directions for Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks. "Plan Concepts" for the two parks are being finalized. When completed, they will be circulated for public review and discussion.

These two parks provide the only representation of the Columbia Mountains in the national park system, and protect a variety of landforms, vegetation types and wildlife species unique to this area. Human involvement in the Mount Revelstoke and Glacier region leaves a rich cultural heritage closely tied to the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway through the Rogers Pass. With the exception of the corridor influenced by the Trans-Canada Highway and the Canadian Pacific Railway, the parks' primary orientation is to wilderness preservation. Pressure for broadening development that would negatively impact this wilderness area must be strongly resisted and minimized wherever possible.

Public involvement in the planning program and support of this preservation objective is important to ensure its continuation. Resources in this area are under tremendous pressure for use and development. Extensive logging operations already surround both parks and more logging is planned in the future. A major hydroelectric reservoir and power development has been completed adjacent to Mount Revelstoke, and the Canadian Pacific Railway is constructing a second track and tunnel to twin its main line through Glacier.

Although tourism is important to the area, the regional tourism strategy supports Parks Canada's policy of not advocating the development of private tourist facilities in the parks. As a result, opportunities for the provision of tourist services have been stimulated in the adjacent centres of Revelstoke and Golden.

We have identified the important issues which must be

Four Mountain Parks Planning Program

The public response to the *Planning Scenario (Draft)* is ready for mailout. You will recall from the information in the July flyer, that we planned to send out two reports based on a two level computer analysis prepared by the consultant. In reviewing the report, we feel that a single report although more lengthy, will keep the information together and allow for a better understanding of the information Parks Canada received.

Recommendations for the *Four Mountain Parks Management Framework* (the revised Planning Scenario) have been forwarded to the Honourable Thomas McMillan, Minister of the Environment, for his review and consideration. The minister's response to this document will provide the primary guidelines for preparing individual park plans for Yoho, Kootenay, Banff and Jasper national parks.

Terms of Reference for the next stage of the program are now being developed. Data collection and analysis is continuing as the two park teams, one for Banff and Yoho and one for Jasper and Kootenay, prepare for the next phase.

It is anticipated that draft proposals for each park will be completed in the fall of 1986. Public reviews of the individual park proposals can be expected to occur shortly thereafter. The format for meetings and the solicitation of public response is expected to follow the established pattern. Whether a public review of each park plan proposal is conducted as each park proposal is completed or after they are all completed is a decision that is still to be made. To ask the public to review four separate plan proposals and to consider the interrelationship of one plan to the others, all in the framework of the four mountain park block, would be a major task

at one sitting. Yet, in the end, this level of analysis and input from the public is necessary.

Although we plan to follow a familiar pattern in interacting with the public, some special strategies may have to be incorporated. One approach might be the formation of public groups or committees to deal with specific elements of the proposals and to combine their findings and input at open house programs with the general public, over a two or three day stand. Another approach might be to review each plan proposal separately as they are produced, allowing the effects and implications of each proposal to meld and grow with the other park proposals as the program progresses. This could work, since data collection and analysis would be occurring across the block for all four parks at the same time, although the plan proposals for Kootenay and Yoho national parks would not likely take the same time to complete as the proposals for Jasper and Banff.

If you have any ideas about a program that would better suit yourself and your associates to enable us to complete the task within the target dates set by Parks Canada, we would be pleased to hear about them.

As indicated in our July PARTICIPATION flyer, response to the program at all stages since 1981 has been very good. The *Four Mountain Parks Planning Program* is one of the most important planning programs ever conducted by Parks Canada. Public interest and involvement needs to continue in order to get the best long range plan possible. We ask you to continue as you have in the past, to keep informed, to evaluate the proposals and to respond at the appropriate times in the future.



Glacier Crossing - Beaver Glacier

Photo credit: John Woods

addressed in the "Plan Concept" documents being prepared. During the months of July, August and September, an information booklet entitled *Planning the Parks - Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks* was distributed to interested participants at various public functions and at the Rogers Pass Centre. The booklet identifies the planning process, the issues, the resources and the need for continued public involvement. A copy can be received by contacting our office here in Calgary or the Park Office in Revelstoke, B.C. (see addresses below).

The "Plan Concept" documents are being prepared and should be available in January, 1986. If you are not yet on our mailing list for this program, you can receive copies by contacting

the Calgary office. A review of the "Plan Concepts" will be conducted. The public is urged to review the concepts, and express their concerns, views, opinions and ideas either at the open public forums that will be organized for early next year or in a letter or brief mailed to us.

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Historical and Archaeological Research at Jasper House

Jasper National Park takes its name from that of the two small trading posts that existed along the Athabasca River in the early nineteenth century. The first one was under the charge of Jasper Hawes, a Northwest Company clerk, in 1817. He gave his name not only to the post – "Jasper Hawes' House" became "Jasper's House" then "Jasper House" – but to the community that grew up around it, the lake in the Athabasca River and finally to the national park.

When the post was removed in 1830 from Bruile Lake upstream to what is now the Devona Siding, the name came too, although Jasper Hawes was long gone. Jasper House was primarily important for its location, secondarily as a fur trade post. It continued in intermittent operation until 1884, when it was finally abandoned.

The fame of Jasper House was due in part to distinguished visitors who wrote about it, or artists and photographers who captured its image. Ironically, at the end of the century, as the buildings decayed away and the community that grew up around it dispersed, the myth of "Jasper House" grew. The myth had so overwhelmed the reality by 1909 that upon visiting the site, the Chief Superintendent wrote,

"... This old structure [Jasper House] ... is one of the most historic and famous of all the posts erected in the north by the Hudson's Bay Company. Jasper House would appear to be a corruption of the name Hawes as this post was placed in charge of Jasper Hawes in 1814. He took up his quarters here in company with two French Canadian hunters and a number of Iroquois Indians, where they took such heavy toll from this rich country in the way of furs as to place this post on a basis high above that of any other station in the Hudson's Bay service."

In 1927, the location of Jasper House was declared to be a site of national historic significance, although nothing remained but the ruins of several buildings, scattered artifacts and the graveyard. Because of the site's location, the plaque was erected across the river from the meadow where Jasper House had stood.

At the time of the commemoration, such basic facts as where the buildings stood, how many there were, and what evidence remained of the human occupation of the site were not known. For

a long time, the simple fact of commemoration was sufficient, but by the early 1980s, myth and reality were becoming indistinguishable, and "pot hunters" were removing cultural resources from the site. Beyond the obvious fact that Jasper House had once stood in the field indicated, little was known.

Over the past five years, historical and archaeological researchers have attempted to identify the resources at the site, and to provide an accurate picture of the history of Jasper House. The first step involved setting a context and identifying the major sources for its history. This was accomplished by a "Human History of Jasper National Park, Alberta," in 1981. The next, as part of an overall survey of archaeological resources in Jasper, involved the investigation of the site in 1984. This was done by the project archaeologist, in conjunction with the regional historian. The historian assembled the (limited) archival and pictorial evidence and suggested that there were three "Jasper Houses" on the site, the original dating from 1830, a rebuilt one of 1859-1860, and a structure put up by Louis Swift in the 1890s which was destroyed in 1909. Ironically, the latter building, which had no connection with the historical Jasper House, was considered for interpretation in the 1960s. The historical report also suggested where three different sites might be located, but could make no firm statements in the absence of archaeological data.

Acting upon both site analysis and the suggested leads provided by the historian, the project archaeologist did test digs in 1984, in order to determine the state of preservation of the artifacts and the location of structures. He and his crew delineated the outline of two structures, and identified two others. They also discovered that considerable vandalism had disturbed the site, resulting in the loss of artifacts. Also, and perhaps inevitably, investigation of the site did not substantiate the historical evidence.

A major archaeological project was proposed for 1985-1986, building upon both data already assembled and another historical study, this time of building techniques and technology appropriate to the site, material culture, and the nature of the society around Jasper House. Work on this project is still in progress, but it has become obvious that both disciplines, of historical and archaeological research, bring distinct insights to the history of the site, and that there will be many questions which neither can answer. However, there is now a much clearer picture of the location of the buildings than before, of the condition and relative significance of the artifacts located, and finally, of the course of Jasper House's history. Future work can proceed on the basis of factual evidence, not just mere conjecture.

Richard Stuart
Regional Historian

Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail

Through the Agreement for Recreation and Conservation Program, the Master Development Plan for the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail has been completed. The Plan was officially approved in February, 1985 by the Minister of Environment for Canada (Honourable Suzanne Blais-Grenier) and the Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing for the Province of British Columbia (Honourable Anthony J. Brummett).

Agreements for Recreation and Conservation (ARC) are a federal initiative intended to provide a framework for co-ordinated planning and development of areas with significant heritage values, but which do not warrant designation as a national or provincial park. This framework allows Parks Canada, on behalf of the federal government, to enter into agreements with provincial, municipal, and regional governments, private agencies, and concerned citizens to co-operatively develop measures for the identification, protection, interpretation and development of areas deemed to be nationally significant.

The Canada-British Columbia Agreement for Recreation and Conservation on the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail provides a mechanism for establishing, protecting and developing a co-operative heritage area along this historic corridor in British Columbia.

The Plan is the culmination of the efforts of a great number of dedicated, concerned and energetic people. Prior to the formal signing of the development agreement on May 28, 1982, several agencies including the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the B.C. Heritage Trust, the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. and the Vancouver Foundation gave support and encouragement to the concept of the Heritage Trail. This plan would not have been completed without the support and assistance of the many regional and local residents who volunteered their time and effort to the project.

Public meetings were held in Prince George, Quesnel, Anahim Lake, Bella Coola and Williams Lake, with many informal meetings in Nazko, and the Upper Blackwater. Day-to-day consultation by members of the planning team with local residents of the area will remain an integral part of the implementation of the plan.



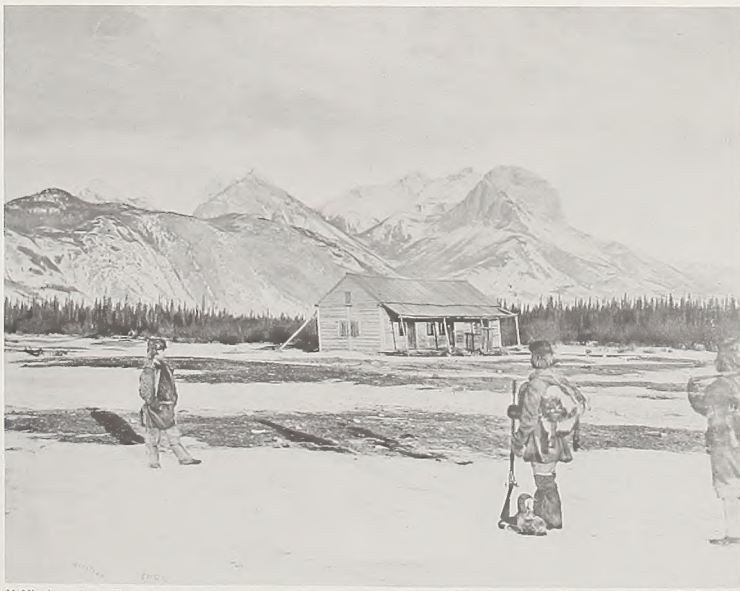
Rock Inscription, Elcho Point.
Recreated in 1986 by H.S.M.B.C.

The trail's major appeal is the opportunity it presents for long distance back-packing. The historic route normally takes about 3 weeks to traverse. Presently, visitors primarily use the recreation sites in the Blackwater area or in Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. Hunting and fishing are the major pursuits during the weekends and during the hunting season.

The Heritage Trail provides a wide range of recreational activities not always found or permitted in other parks. Horse-back riding, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, photography, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are all popular activities. Anglers wishing to get into the more remote areas near the trail can arrange for or fly-in themselves.

Regional activities adjacent to the original trail pose some difficulties. Sections of the trail traverse private land, Indian Reservations and grazing leases. Some of these sections, particularly crossing Indian Reservations have significant heritage resources. The Plan will make proposals to have parts of the trail by-pass the reserves, and visitors will be warned against trespassing on private lands. Proposed by-passes will not diminish the historic significance however. Forestry, mining and agriculture are the major industries operating in the region. These industries do not conflict with the preservation of the trail.

The Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail has relatively low visitor use. This is partly due to the lack of easy access to the trail-heads. New access will soon be created in the Upper Blackwater Management area where a road between Anahim Lake and Vanderhoof is to be constructed.



Middle view of Jasper House, 1872.

Photo credit: Glenbow Foundation

Trail development objectives stress the preservation and protection of the heritage resources in the trail area. This is to be achieved through the designation of the trail as a heritage site under the British Columbia Heritage Conservation Act. The entire route is to be marked identifying it as a heritage trail. Accurate and up-to-date information for visitors will be provided, enabling them to plan a safe and enjoyable visit while enhancing their awareness and appreciation of the trail they are following.

Existing recreation facilities will be utilized in provincial parks and at forest recreation sites. Initial development will upgrade sections of the trail to acceptable safety standards.

Throughout the Master Development Planning Program, public awareness and involvement was considered a major factor. The future use, development, preservation and appreciation of the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail will depend on continued public interest and support. Co-operation of miners, foresters, native people, park authorities, community councils, national and provincial agencies and the visiting public hopefully, will continue to strengthen. Awareness of development plans and proposals becomes a responsibility of all Canadians. Public encouragement and support has been truly appreciated. We look forward to future development and use of this trail.

If you would like to receive a copy of the *MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN for the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail*, please contact:

Parks Canada
520, 220 - 4th Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 2989, Stn. M
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3H8

Attn: Public Consultation
Co-ordinator
(403) 292-4418

Trans-Canada Highway Twinning

On June 14, 1985, the Honourable Suzanne Blais-Grenier (then Minister of the Environment, responsible for Parks Canada) officially opened Phase I of the TCH, from Banff park gate to the Minnewanka interchange. Phase II, which extends further west to the Sunshine turn-off, is nearing completion. The newly twinned highway was the subject of two public hearings held by FEARO.

A number of special design features have been incorporated to minimize the highway's impact on Banff National Park. The highway is fenced to prevent wildlife from being struck by motor vehicles, and special underpasses have been built so animals can still travel from one side of the highway to the other. Highway landscaping has included aligning the highway to take advantage of special views, slope grading so that highway slopes blend with the natural terrain, and planting trees to minimize the highway's visual impact. In an attempt to replace wildlife habitat which was destroyed by highway construction, areas previously damaged (old landfills and gravel pits) are being rehabilitated in special ways to provide habitat for elk. Chinaman's Creek was moved and re-created with special attention to fish habitat. It now supports more fish than before it was rebuilt.

The twinning of the TCH in Banff National Park is recognized throughout North America as "state-of-the-art" in environmentally sympathetic construction.



The fence along the Trans-Canada Highway helps prevent collisions between wildlife and motor vehicles.

Town of Banff Planning Program

A planning program will soon be initiated to prepare a new plan for the town of Banff. The existing plan, which was approved in 1979, was based on data collected during the mid 1970s and needs updating and revision.

The planning program will focus on issues which are no longer adequately addressed in the current town plan. These include an assessment of future land requirements for all types of land use, how future growth will be accommodated, parking in the downtown core, provision of acceptable housing for seasonal staff, establishing a town boundary, traffic circulation and pathways.

The Banff School Board, which will be very involved in the planning program, has been asked to comment on an outline of the proposed planning process and schedule. The first stage of the program will include a considerable amount of data collection. Proposals for resolving existing and anticipated problems will be developed and discussed with the public late in 1986. The final plan will be prepared in 1987.

More information on the planning program will be available later this year. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Russell Kirby, Banff Town Manager (762-3324) in Banff, or Jillian Roulet, Senior Town Planner (292-4431) in Calgary.

The Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site

On August 21, 1985, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, visited Lake Louise where he dedicated Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho national parks as a *World Heritage Site*.

The *Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks* are the eighth site in Canada to be named to the *World Heritage List*. This designation is recognition by UNESCO that these four parks encompass a natural area which has world significance. The area meets all four criteria required for designation as a *World Heritage Site* natural property.

- The area contains features representing a major stage in the earth's evolutionary history. (The Burgess Shale in Yoho is one of the world's most significant fossil sites.)

CPR Tunnel, Rogers Pass

In 1982 and 1983, public hearings were held to discuss the twinning of CPR's line through Glacier National Park. At the hearings, strong concern was expressed about the impacts that this project would have on Glacier National Park.

CPR is well advanced in its construction, which includes two tunnels (one is 14.5 km long!) and 16.5 km of surface route, much of which is on an overhead viaduct. Two work camps are situated in the park, each housing about 500 workers. CPR expects to have construction completed by 1988.

Special measures to protect the environment have been incorporated into the project. Parks Canada has assigned staff who continuously monitor the construction to ensure that resource impacts are kept to a minimum. CP Rail has a rigorous air and water quality monitoring program, to ensure that very exacting standards are met by camp sewage and tunnel effluent treatment plants. Revegetation of damaged terrain is done as soon as possible, and work limits are very strictly enforced to limit damage caused by heavy equipment. So that forest removal could be kept to a minimum, workers are bussed to the camps and work sites, thus making large parking lots for private vehicles unnecessary.

- The parks contain outstanding examples of significant geological processes. (The Columbia Icefield complex and Maligne Valley are two examples.)
- It contains landscapes of exceptional beauty.
- Undisturbed habitats of many species of wildlife typical of the Rocky Mountains are wholly contained within the parks.

Each of these criteria in isolation has a significant natural resource value. Combined, their significance is greatly enhanced, giving the area global significance.



His Royal Highness Prince Philip, dedicated Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho as a *World Heritage Site* on August 21, 1985. Photo credit: Lloyd Webster, 1985

Mount Norquay Ski Area

Parks Canada representatives and Mount Norquay Ski Area management recently met to discuss the long term development plan for Mount Norquay and the Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE) which had been prepared in response to the plan. Based on the outcome of the meeting, Mount Norquay management will revise their plan, and the IEE will also be revised accordingly. If all proceeds smoothly, public review of the ski hill's development plan and the IEE will occur by the spring of 1986.



Centennial Office

1985 has been an incredible year! Western Region's Centennial Calendar was packed with activities and events celebrating the 100th anniversary of the National Parks. Communities, clubs, schools and many individuals across British Columbia and Alberta got together to celebrate 100 years of Heritage Conservation. The national parks in this region became focal points for these once in a lifetime celebrations.

It was a year of new directions for Parks Canada. Communities and parks joined to organize such events as the send-off for the Great Heritage Canoe Pageant at Rocky Mountain House, the Heritage Art Show in Revelstoke, the Homecoming in Jasper and the Centennial Baby Awards at Pacific Rim. A legacy from 1985 will be a new spirit of co-operation between the parks and their neighboring communities.

This year the national parks reached beyond their borders to share the centennial message with millions of Canadians. Exhibits created awareness of the national park idea and carried the heritage message across B.C. and Alberta. From the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton's Klondike Days, provincial parks and local libraries & museums, the national parks story was told. Feature articles appeared in many magazines and newspapers and the centennial logo was featured on millions of sugar bags, on milk cartons and grocery bags.

Parks Canada staff worked together on such projects as a regional centennial quilt, the staff art show and building park floats for local parades. They became hosts at large display areas at special events such as Klondike Days. Centennial year provided the chance for staff to meet the public in places other than the parks and to meet each other. Staff participation in the Speakers Bureau reached over 2500 people.

It would be impossible to list all the centennial events and activities which you and others made possible. *The enthusiasm and commitment generated during 1985 will be carried into the second century of Canada's National Park System ensuring that Canadians will be able to celebrate Heritage Conservation another hundred years from now.*



The opening of the Cave and Basin Centennial Centre in Banff on June 15, 1985.



Boomer greeting visitors at the National Park exhibit at the 1985 Calgary Stampede.



Retracing the historic fur trade routes along the North Saskatchewan and Fraser Rivers. Summer 1985.



Boomer addressing Bill McDaniel's Beaver Troup



Boomer at Pacific Rim National Park



Barbarn Sparrow M.P. for Calgary South opening National Park Exhibit at Sunridge Mall - Calgary, January 18, 1985



Pack trains and antique automobiles at rededication of Windermere Highway, June 30, 1985



Opening ceremony for Centennial Place Waterton Lakes National Park, May 1985